

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in the above-referenced patent application. In this response, claims 1-6 have been amended, claims 7-18 have been added and no claims have been cancelled. Additionally, it is noted that claims 7-18 include the same allowable subject matter of claims 1-6, but in a different claim form. Accordingly, these claims should be allowable for at least the same reasons as claims 1-6.

Status of the Specification and Claims

It is noted that the claims were not amended to overcome any previously-presented rejections since none were rejected, or to overcome any cited references since all claims are allowable subject to *Ex parte Quayle* issues. Rather, the claims were amended to address formal matters noted by the Examiner, and to more clearly delineate intended subject matter. Furthermore, it is believed that these amendments do not narrow claim scope. Rather, in some cases, the claims may even be broadened. Therefore, no prosecution history estoppel should result from these claim amendments.

In the Office Action, dated March 6, 2006, the Examiner closed prosecution on the merits under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213. In this Office Action, the Examiner objected to the title for not being descriptive; requested that a drawing be added; and objected to claim 4 for an unintentional grammatical error. Assignee has amended the title, has amended claim 4, and has additionally added a flow chart as Figure 5. It is respectfully submitted that the amendments to the title and claim 4 should address the objections by the Examiner. Further, the addition of Figure 5 and related description in the specification in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion should address this formal matter noted by the Examiner. The addition of Figure 5 and related description does not introduce any new matter. Support may be found for Figure 5 and related description at least in the specification from paragraph [0020] to [0026], the claims, and Figures 1 and 2, for example. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that all *Ex parte Quayle* issues have been addressed, and all claims now pending are now formally in a condition for allowance. Further, it is respectfully submitted that new claims 7-18 share the same subject matter with allowed claims 1-6. Thus, these claims should be allowable on at least the same basis as claims 1-6. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner enter new claims 7-18, and allow claims 1-18 to proceed to allowance.

Attorney Docket: 112.P14214

CONCLUSION

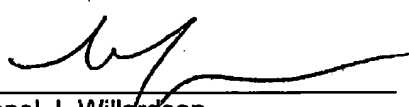
In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims pending in this patent application, as amended, are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, she is invited to contact the undersigned at (503) 439-6500. Reconsideration of this patent application and early allowance of all the claims is respectfully requested.

Please charge any shortages and credit any overcharges of any fees required for this submission to Deposit Account number 50-3703.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: _____

6/6/06



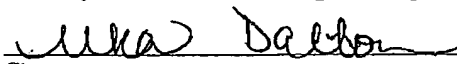
Michael J. Willardson
Patent Attorney
Reg. No. 50,856

Berkeley Law and Technology Group, LLC
1700 NW 167th Place, Suite 240
Beaverton, OR 97006
Phone: 503.439.6500
Customer No. 43831

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